

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended for clarification and expediting prosecution, and claim 4 is similarly amended. Claims 5-7 are cancelled.

The first paragraph of the specification is amended to identify the cross-referenced patent application.

Claim 1 is amended to replace “(hereafter pblock)” with –(pblock)--. Claim 4 is similarly amended. Claim 1 is also amended to clarify that “pcellview” is short for “physical block cellview” and that first and second pcellviews are referenced. Claims 2 and 3 are amended merely for consistency with amended claim 1. The amendments merely correct minor inadvertent informalities.

Claim 4 is amended to replace “said netlist” with –a netlist--. Claim 4 is also amended to clarify that the internal pins are of the pblock. Such amendments merely make explicit what was implicit in the original claim language. Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would have understood the claims as originally presented.

New claims 8 and 9 are added to claim the invention in alternative language. Claim 8 includes the limitations of claim 1 that are discussed below. Thus, claim 8 is understood to be patentable over the prior art. Claim 9 depends from claim 8, and therefore, is also understood to be patentable. Support for the new claims may be found in the example embodiments described in paragraphs [0076] and [0078].

Claims 1-4 and 8-9 remain and are thought to be allowable over the cited art. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 USC §102(e) by US patent 6,631,508 to Williams (“Williams”) is respectfully traversed because the Office Action does not show that all the limitations of the claims are taught by Williams. Williams is not understood to teach or suggest both the boundary pins and the internal pins of a pblock as claimed.

Specifically, Claim 1 includes limitations of the data structure having data defining the pblock including a set of pointers to data defining boundary pins of the said pblock. The boundary pins connect to nets external to the pblock and connect to nets internal to the pblock. The data structure also contains a pointer to a second

pcellview data structure owned by the pblock. The second pcellview contains pointers to data which define lists of pins internal to the pblock, nets that connect to the internal pins and boundary pins of the pblock, child pblocks and child instances which have been assigned to said pblock and which define the functionality of said pblock.

As described in paragraphs [0152]-[0154] the pblocks and boundary pins allow each pblock to be viewed as a chip within a chip. The cited portions of Williams have no elements that appear to reasonably correspond to the separate boundary pins for a pblock. Citation to Williams' specific elements thought to correspond to the separate boundary pins and internal pins is requested if the rejection is maintained. Otherwise, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 8-9 should be withdrawn because all the limitations are not shown to be taught by Williams.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

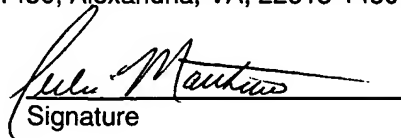
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450, on July 17, 2006.

Julie Matthews
Name


Signature